

**Ambassador Mull's Remarks at
Ministry of Culture Ceremony to Return 17th Century Chalice to Poland
June 9, 2015**

Good afternoon. Minister Omilanowska, Dr. Majewski, Professor Rottermund and Prelate Poniewierski, it is an honor to join you today to celebrate the return of this beautiful 17th century chalice to Poland.

A number of people in Poland and the United States had a hand in recovering the lost chalice. It started with a helpful tip from an alert U.S. citizen, followed by coordinated action among experts at the Wawel Castle, the National Institute of Museums and Heritage Protection, the Polish National Police, and, ultimately, the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

I commend U.S. and Polish law enforcement for your excellent cooperation in support of our common interests and values. I am pleased that Police Chief Krzysztof Gajewski and the head of the FBI office for Poland, Monika Wasiewicz, are here to represent their colleagues and celebrate this achievement. Your ongoing collaboration is an enduring and valuable part of the friendship between the United States and Poland.

I am proud to note that today's ceremony marks the fourth time in the last couple of years that our governments have worked together to recover Polish national treasures. In August 2013, we were honored to return a WWII prisoner's cap stolen from the Majdanek State Museum; in April 2014 the FBI delivered over sixty paintings by Hanna Weynerowska, also known as "Kali," to the Polish

National Museum in Rapperswil, Switzerland; and that same month, the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations officers returned to Poland an 18th-century painting entitled “The Ascension of Christ.”

The United States has long been committed to helping Poland recover its stolen national treasures. You can continue to count on the United States to do whatever we can to assist you in your mission to preserve Poland’s cultural heritage.

I am glad that this beautiful 17th –century chalice is in Poland where it belongs. Congratulations to you all. Thank you.